HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

February 27, 2013 at 4:30 pm Council Chambers

PRESENT	ABSENT
Gil Palmer	Rhea Baker-Ipek
Greg Lewis	Shiva Rallapalli
lan Kohen	Rosalind Pegram
John Stroh	
Trena Carter	
John Roberts	
Tony McClendon	

Meeting called to order

STAFF PRESENT

Director Lorraine Smith and Deputy Director Frances Jordan

GUESTS

Kelly Benjamin, City Attorney, Tim Shuffett, City Council Liaison, and Max Lemley

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No Minutes to approve, no Quorum at previous meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Carter reported \$5,927.70 in the Donations Account and \$1,497.02 in the Non-Reverting Fund for a total of \$7,424.72.

The Heritage Fund Grant which covers the expenses for the 'Adventures in DiversCity' had a purchase of "Waiting for Superman" DVD for an event leaving a balance of \$3,040.40.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No Report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lorraine Smith reported that the office has been very busy. Director Smith stated that this is a positive result of people seeking assistance from the Human Rights Commission resulting from our outreach efforts.

CASEWORK

Intakes:

- 2 Housing eviction, reasonable accommodation
- 1 Public Accommodations
- 1 Termination in Employment
- 1 Race/National Origin
- 1 Disability in Employment
- 1 DCS complaint

Technical Assistance:

- 1 Disability in Housing
- 1 Public Accommodations
- 1 Filing for Disability in Housing thru Indiana Civil Rights Commission

Filings scheduled this week:

- 1 Disability in Employment
- 1 DCS

OFFICE

• Director Smith and Deputy Director Jordan continue to attend Monthly Mayor's Staff and Weekly Board of Works Meetings.

ANNUAL DINNER

- Invitations should go out Friday March 1st, no later than March 4th. Each Commissioner will receive a set amount of tickets to sell.
- Deputy Director Jordan will be coordinating the Essay/Art Contest judging March 11th. There were over 300 entries through our networks.

MAYORS ADVISORY COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY (MACDA)

- Director Smith reported she attended the Council's 1st meeting since electing their Executive Committee.
- The Council is in the beginning stages of doing long range and short term planning.

ADVENTURES IN DIVERSITY

• The office continues to give updates on the summer programming in the community.

OTHER ACTIVITIES - NETWORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY/EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

Oral History Project/IUPUC WC II Grant:

- Director Smith reported she has conducted 6 interviews with 6 interviews in queue for this week and the first week of March.
- Director Smith will be distributing the schedules the Commissioners who volunteered to be interviewers.
- Director Smith enjoyed the interviews conducted thus far but is having to distribute her focus to other projects and the work load of the office.
- Director Smith plans to provide footage of the interviews she has conducted thus far for the Commissioners to get a look at.

CITY HALL

Diversity Programming – Arts District

Mayor Brown has asked Director Smith to assist with brainstorming a plan about possibly some diversity
programming within the arts district. Director Smith and Deputy Director Jordan have had a meeting with
Lisa Westenberger, have scheduled an upcoming meeting with Jane Farbor, the City's Consultant on the
Arts district, as well as Karen Shrode from the Arts Council to collaborate with the Arts District
Programming team.

Mayor's Strategic Plan Committee:

- Director Smith reported the Strategic Plan that the Commission approved, pleased Mayor Brown, particularly that it had methods and measures in the plan.
- Mayor Brown asked for the office's input on two additional projects. Director Smith spoke with her about
 the Arts District Programming as well as a Multicultural Center or Welcoming Community Center that the
 Outreach Committee has considered as well. Director Smith indicated those two projects go hand in
 hand.

UPCOMING

- Frances is presenting tonight for IUPUC's/ Mill Race Center "Great Decisions" on Myanmar and Southeast Asia at 7:00 PM, Summerville Room, The Columbus Learning Center
- Mayor's Advisory Council on Disability and Accessibility (MACDA) will be March 4th at 2:00 p.m. in the Meeting Hall.
- Women's International Day, March 7th, 5:30 P.M. at the Columbus Learning Center, 4555 Central Avenue. Special Guest Speaker will be Loung Ung, Cambodian Activist. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5:30.
- March 20- Frances speaking to Promotoras, community health workers for the Latino community to educate them about the services the Human Rights Commission, and how we can assist the Latino Community.

PUBLIC HEARING

Amendment of Human Rights Commission Resolution

ARa (Administrative Resources Association) seeks out and procures federal grants for various Indiana cities including the City of Columbus. ARa procured a federally funded grant for The City of Columbus for the demolition of the structures at the former REMC site on 2nd Street. Per federal guidelines for receiving the grant, the funding agency for these, the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs (IOCRA) requires an update to the City's Fair Housing Statute. This update is to provide further definition of familial status in housing primarily to include the following: *the definition of "family" is revised to include families regardless of the actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of its members.*Discussion ensued.

FOR ACTION

Commissioner Kohen moved to amend II K of the Rules and Regulation Commissioner Lewis second the motion. Motion carried.

Election of the Human Rights Commission Officers.

Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the slate as it was given.

- Chairperson- Gil Palmer
- Vice Chairperson- Ian Kohen
- Secretary- John Roberts
- Treasurer- Trena Carter

Selection of the 2013 William R. Laws Human Rights Award Recipient

Commissioners were presented with Owen Hungerford as the Laws Award Recipient chosen from 5 other nominations by the Laws Committee of the Commission. Mr. Hungerford was selected based on the criteria set by the Commission. Mr. Hungerford was instrumental in the creation of the Human Rights Commission in 1962 along side, Benjamin 'Mickey' King, Dr. William R. Laws and J. Irwin Miller. He will be presented his award at the Human Rights Commission Annual Dinner on April 10th.

Commissioner Roberts moved that Mr. Owen Hungerford be the 2013 William R. Laws Award Recipient, Commissioner Kohen second the motion. Motion carried.

LIAISON REPORT:

Commissioner Roberts reported that the Transit Authority Board was supposed to meet Friday, February 22nd but was cancelled due to the weather. It was rescheduled to Friday, March 1st.

Commissioner Lewis has been unable to attend the CAMEO meetings due to a conflict. Director Smith reported that they CAMEO is doing well with their Strategic Planning. Program Coordinator Kristen Munn has done a great job promoting the partnership as well as CAMEO. Their monthly meeting attendance is still doing very well getting 25 to 30 attendees each month. Deputy Director Jordan reported they are discussing getting a larger facility since they are reaching their maximum capacity.

Deputy Director Smith encouraged the Commissioners to look at all the upcoming events in the Director's Report which will be emailed to the Commissioners.

Discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Carter moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Roberts seconded. Motion carried meeting adjourned.